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MAR 20 1952

My dear Mr. President:

You know, Section 101(a)(1) of the Mutual Security Act of 1951 provides a maximum of \$100 million for possible use in connection with assistance to certain selected escapees from the Iron Curtain area when it is determined by you that such assistance will contribute to the defense of the North Atlantic area and to the security of the United States.

The departments concerned have approved a program toward accomplishment of the objectives desired by the Congress. This program is designed to improve the reception and treatment and secure the resettlement of qualified people who escape from the Iron Curtain countries, and will supplement, but in no sense supersede, the efforts of the governments bordering on the Iron Curtain areas which carry the main responsibility for taking care of these people. It is estimated that a maximum of \$7,200,000 will be required for this supplementary program during the calendar year 1952, of which \$4,300,000 is to be allocated from funds appropriated under authority of Section 101(a)(1) of Title I of the Mutual Security Act. The balance of \$2,900,000 is planned to be obtained from other sources, including counterpart and privately contributed funds.

It is the unanimous opinion of the departments concerned that this program is of immediate and utmost importance. I concur in this opinion and recommend that you determine the assistance planned will contribute to the defense of the North Atlantic area and to the security of the United States.

Sincerely yours,

cc: Mr. Harriman(2), Mr. Oilly,  
Mr. Tannenwald, Mr. Berger(2),  
Mr. Dandaro(2), Mr. Sheppard,  
Mr. Cooley, MSA; Mr. Dawson, UNA/R  
Mr. Pferzheimer(CIA), Mr. Hoopes(Defense)  
Mr. Cox (PSB), DMS Message Center  
The President,  
The White House

(Sgd) W. A. HARRIMAN

W. Averell Harriman

SECURITY INFORMATION

MAR 20 1952

Copies  
Copies 4 & 5 to Mr. Harriman  
Copy 6 to Mr. Chiy  
Copy 7 to Mr. Tannenwald  
Copy 8 & 9 to Mr. Berger  
Copy 10 - Mr. Dondro  
Copy 11 - Mr. Shepard  
Copy 12 - MAA, Mr. Cooley  
Copy 13 - UNA/R, Mr. Dawson  
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENTSubject: U.S. Program for Soviet Orbit Escapees

In a further effort to give effect to certain policies laid down in NSC 5411, approved by the President on April 19, 1951, the Psychological Strategy Board (PSB) on December 20, 1951, approved a program to improve the reception and treatment of people who escape from Soviet and Eastern European satellite tyranny and persecution. It recommended that the Department of State accept responsibility for developing and putting into effect as a matter of urgency an operational plan designed to bring together, register, provide supplementary assistance to, and in appropriate cases, help receive abroad the 6,000 Iron Curtain refugees escaping yearly into Western Germany, Austria, Italy, Trieste, Greece, and Turkey, plus some 12,000 already in those areas. It also recommended that provision be made for coordination with other U. S. Government departments and agencies to insure that their requirements with respect to escapees are met.

At present, those who escape are cared for on a most inadequate basis by the countries bordering on the Iron Curtain and to some extent by private charity. The program of U. S. supplementary assistance is considered indispensable in support of certain U. S. efforts against the Soviet Union and satellite states, and has been recommended by the various U. S. Missions abroad without exception. An effective effort to care for bona fide escapees from Communist slavery will be of tremendous help to our intelligence programs and political and psychological warfare efforts, and will tend to encourage the further defection of persons who through their position or particular knowledge and talents are able to make important contributions to U. S. agencies and programs. Conversely, failure to take proper care of those who manage to escape will reduce the flow of key defectors and thus deprive us of much information and assistance, as well as play into the hands of Communist propaganda, which makes effective use of the way escapees are now treated by the West in order to discourage others from escaping.

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The best way to preserve faith in the West among the Russian and satellite peoples is to keep alive the tradition that escape to the West stands for freedom.

The Department of State has accepted responsibility for securing U.S. interests in this program and for making suitable organizational arrangements contingent upon the provision of the necessary funds. Lodgment of this responsibility in the Department of State is appropriate in view of the Department's past and current experience and responsibility in this field.

Special field units will be established under the Chief of the U.S. Mission in each of the concerned countries, with a headquarters in Germany to coordinate technical and intergovernmental aspects. These units will insure the collection, registration, documentation and screening of the newly arriving refugees, secure improved standards of reception and subsequent treatment and aid the further migration or other disposition of as many as possible. The units will coordinate with covert and other agencies in order to facilitate their activities. To the maximum extent consistent with U.S. objectives and interests, actual operations will be effected through contractual arrangements with other agencies (including American voluntary agencies and the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe). However, ultimate responsibility for program interests and funds involved will remain vested in U.S. governmental personnel.

Budget estimate of funds needed for the first year of operations are \$1,500,000 for resettlement, \$1,700,000 for supplementary care and assistance and \$1,000,000 for administration and operating expenses. Anticipated sources of funds and services to support expenses are Section 161(a)(1), P.L. 161, 82d Congress, \$4,300,000; counterpart funds abroad, \$1,450,000; PLOMRA, \$700,000; Ford Foundation, \$500,000; and American voluntary agencies, \$150,000.

Additional programs for escapees from behind the Iron Curtain are under consideration.

This memorandum or explanation of this particular program is accompanied by a letter from Mr. E. Averell Harriman, Director for Mutual Security, recommending a presidential determination that this program will contribute to the defense of the North Atlantic Area and to the security of the United States, under authority of Section 161(a)(1) of Title I of the Mutual Security Act.

Approved For Release 2001/03/01: CIA-RDP57-00384R000700020001-4

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